

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STUTTG 01955 291235Z
ACTION EUR-12

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS GW
SUBJ: NEW DISCOVERIES AND NEW TERRORIST TRIAL IN STAMMHEIM

REF: STUTTGART 1918, STUTTGART 1874

1. SUMMARY: TO THE CONSTERNATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES, DIS-
MANTLING OF THE WALLS IN TERRORIST PRISON CELLS AT STAMMHEIM
HAVE BROUGHT TO LIGHT ANOTHER PISTOL AND EXPLOSIVES AND THE
DISCOVERY OF FOUR RAZOR BLADES IN EXTRADITED LAWYER CROISSANT'S
CELL. OVER THE WEEKEND, STUTTGART MAYOR ROMMEL DEMONSTRATED
HIS EVEN-HANDEDNESS IN AN INTERVIEW WITH LE MONDE BY DEFEND-
ING CROISSANT'S EXTRADITION. FORMER CROISSANT ASSOCIATE LANG
HAS SENT LETTER FROM UNDERGROUND ABROAD CLAIMING NOT TO BE
INVOLVED IN PRESENT TERRORIST EVENTS IN FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND
BLAMING RIGHTIST CIRCLES FOR THEM. MEANWHILE, TRIAL AGAINST
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TERRORIST VERENA BECKER BEGAN AT STAMMHEIM NOVEMBER 28. END
SUMMARY.

2. SERIES OF SURPRISE DISCOVERIES AT STAMMHEIM PRISON CONTIN-
UES, WITH DISCOVERY OF THIRD PISTOL AND EXPLOSIVES IN WALLS
OF TERRORIST PRISONERS' SEVENTH FLOOR OF STAMMHEIM PRISON, AS
WELL AS FOUR RAZOR BLADES FOUND IN RECENTLY EXTRADITED KLAUS

CROISSANT'S CELL ON NOVEMBER 24. CROISSANT HIMSELF HANDED OVER ONE BLADE ALLEGEDLY FOUND ON NAIL IN WARDROBE OF HIS CELL, AFTER WHICH THOROUGH SECOND SEARCH REVEALED THREE MORE BLADES IN HIS TOILET. DISCOVERY IS ESPECIALLY AGGRAVATING FOR JUSTICE OFFICIALS AS CELL REPORTEDLY HAD JUST BEEN SEARCHED THOROUGHLY BY EXPERT BECAUSE CROISSANT CONSIDERED SUICIDE PRONE. HIS TRIAL IS EXPECTED TO START SOON AFTER NEW YEAR 1978.

3. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THE WEEKEND EDITION OF THE PARIS "LE MONDE", STUTTGART MAYOR MANFRED ROMMEL EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER EXTRADITION OF CROISSANT TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. ROMMEL REFUTED CRITICAL COMMENT VOICED ESPECIALLY IN FRANCE THAT RAF PRISONERS IN STAMMHEIM ENDURED AN UNBEARABLE "ISOLATION ARREST". ROMMEL SAID THAT WHILE CONDITIONS AT STAMMHEIM WERE NOT THE MOST FAVORABLE EVER OFFERED TO PRISONERS, ESPECIALLY IN CONSIDERATION OF THE REASONS FOR THE SENTENCES, ONE SHOULD NOT PERMIT THE INSTITUTION TO BECOME THE SUBJECT OF FABRICATIONS.

4. MEANWHILE, STUTTGART OFFICE OF DEUTSCHE PRESSE-AGENTUR/DPA RECEIVED LETTER POST-MARKED ROME FROM STUTTGART EX-LAWYER JOERG LANG, A FORMER CROISSANT ASSOCIATE, WHO HAS GONE UNDERGROUND. LAND INDICATED HE HAS "JOINED A NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT OUTSIDE OF EUROPE." HE THEN CLAIMED THAT "NEITHER I NOR THE POLITICAL MOVEMENT I FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH DEVELOPING TERRORIST EVENTS IN THE FEDERATED OFFICIAL USE

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AL REPUBLIC." HE PLACED BLAME ON "RIGHTIST CIRCLES WHICH, NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, HAVE THEIR HANDS IN THE GAME OR AT LEAST PROFIT FROM THE EVENTS."

5. AND BACK AT THE "COURT ANNEX" AT STAMMHEIM THE TRIAL OF 25-YEAR OLD VERENA BECKER BEGAN ON NOVEMBER 28 WITH THE EXPECTATION IT WILL BE CONCLUDED IN JANUARY. BECKER IS ACCUSED OF HAVING ATTEMPTED ON THE OCCASION OF HER ARREST ALONG WITH GUENTER SONNENBERG IN SINGEN MAY 3, 1977 TO MURDER SIX POLICEMEN, AND OF PARTICIPATION IN A TERRORIST GROUP LED BY FORMER LAWYER SIEGFRIED HAAG, WHICH IS SUSPECTED IN THE MURDER OF SIEGFRIED BUBACK, BANKER JUERGEN PONTO, AND HANNS MARTIN SCHLEYER. TRIAL OF SONNENBERG, WHO WAS SHOT IN THE HEAD AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST, HAS BEEN DIVORCED FROM THAT OF BECKER AND POSTPONED BECAUSE OF HIS CONDITION.

6. COMMENT: THE BUSY WINTER SEASON AT STAMMHEIM HAS BEGUN. HOWEVER, INDICATIONS ARE THAT UNDER NEW JUSTICE MINISTER PALM, A CHANGED COURT OUTLOOK, AND REVISED PRISON ADMINISTRATION, MATTERS WILL NOW PROCEED WITH GREATER CONFIDENCE AND DESPATCH.
JENKINS

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